

To Kill A Mockingbird Essay

Have you ever thought that people should be treated differently because of their race or religion? In the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* Jem, Scout, and Atticus Finch all try their best to stop this racism but seem to fall short. They all learn the meaning of right and wrong but not in the way it should have been taught. Jem, Scout, and Atticus Finch all learn the meaning of racism and honor and integrity. In the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee has shown three themes: courage, prejudice, and honor and integrity.

In this novel, Harper Lee showed much courage. When Tom Robinson had to go to court and Atticus Finch, a white male, choose to defend a black male in the racist town of Maycomb. This showed he does not have shame or pity to black people. Also when Jem touched the Radley House because everyone else was afraid. Calpurnia said "This was all 'round back steps when I got here this morning. They-they 'preciate what you did, Mr. Finch. Atticus's eyes filled with tears (TKAM, P216)." This quote is when the black people of Maycomb leave food on the porch of Atticus Finch because they greatly appreciate what he did for Tom Robinson. They thought he did a well job on defending Tom Robinson for the circumstances. Though in this novel had a great deal of courage it also had prejudice.

Prejudice is also a main part of this novel. People are prejudice to Dolphus Raymond because he would rather hang out with black people than white people. They make up an excuse that he is the town drunk and rather except him as that than liking black people more than white people. Tom Robinson also gets accused automatically of raping Mayella Ewell because he is black. "In a far corner of the square, the Negroes sat quietly in the sun dining in sardines, crackers, and more vivid flavors of Nehi Cola, Mr. Dolphus Raymond sat with them. Jem said dill, he's drinking out of a sack. Mr. Dolphus Raymond seemed to be so doing; two yellow drugstore straws ran from his mouth to the depths of a brown paper bag. Ain't ever seen anybody do that, murmured Dill. How does he keep what's in it in it, Jem giggled. He's got a Coca-Cola bottle full of whiskey in there. That's so not to upset the ladies, you'll see him sip it all afternoon and he'll step out for a while and fill it back up (TKAM, p205)." This quote is saying they think he drinks but he really disguises it with Coca-Cola because that's the reason the whites think he hangs out with blacks. All the white people were mad at him and came up with excuses that he is an alcoholic and that's why he hangs out with the black people. Although prejudice took place in this novel, so did honesty and integrity.

This novel also shows the characteristics of honesty and integrity. When Atticus tells his children that he is going to take the Tom Robinson case because if he didn't it would not show his children, Jem and Scout, the difference from right and wrong. Also when Atticus says he can not lie to his children. He says, " If I lie to my children, then I will become a bad example (TKAM, P173)." This quote came after Atticus had just accepted the trial offer to Tom Robinson. Atticus believes in telling the children about all that he knows and not holding back. He does not want to fail his children and lie to them about things that are not right, like prejudice. Also he took this case to show his children the difference between right and wrong, whites versus blacks.

In the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee three themes: courage, prejudice, and honor and integrity. This novel has shown a lot about how different colored people got treated poorly for no reason except they were not white. This novel has also shown many people the change over the last eight years. Everyone is now treated equal no matter what race, religion, or any other category. This novel showed us the many lessons in life and in fairness. This novel can apply to everyone because we should not judge people or dislike people without talking to them just because of their skin color.